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The examiner has specified that Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being met by Umbreit in U.S. Patent 6,704,787. To address these rejections, applicant has cancelled the claims of record without prejudice or disclaimer and has provided new claims that define the invention particularly and distinctly and which define the invention's patentability over the prior art.

The References and Differences of The Present Invention Thereover

The cited prior art Umbreit does not teach the claims' operations provided by the preferred embodiment of the present invention that enhance the quality, timeliness and organization of information communicated over a network. Prior to the transmission of information from a network node in response to a request, and perhaps even prior to the transmission of the request itself, the invention's intelligent agents, called RevBots, have already initiated and participated in a series of operations that resulted in an advantageous improvement in the timeliness, availability and organization of said information from said network node.

Umbreit's invention is exclusively between a requestor client, presented as a user or content subscriber, and various network nodes as content providers, each node potentially receiving a request for content by said client. The embodiments of the present invention that include RevBots, by contrast, do not actively involve themselves with the requestor client but instead operates proactively between particular network nodes, for example between a website and various search engines. Requestor clients make their requests to search engines or databases that have already been updated though proactive RevBot operations.

Regarding Claim 1, Umbreit does not teach an intelligent agent or how said intelligent agent informs network nodes of one or more events associated with a website comprising:

- (a) a set of rules to which said intelligent agent refers for its operation; RevBots utilize a dynamic general purpose means to determine if one or more said events associated with a website have occurred while Umbreit utilizes only a static database to contain demography and geographic data associated with particular subscribers, see Paragraphs [21, 26, 36, 40-41, 46, 58, 114-127 and 134-137],
- (b) first means for said intelligent agent detecting that said events have occurred; while RevBots monitor for events such as website content changes, Umbreit does not teach any method for detecting such events associated with said website, see Paragraphs [23, 49, 59, 127 and 150],
- (c) second means for said intelligent agent discerning one or more network nodes with which to communicate; RevBots proactively determine whether an event has occurred and

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initiates a network communication while Umbreit works only on demand by a requestor client's request to a network node, see Paragraphs [25, 60, 212-216],

- (d) third means for said intelligent agent notifying said network nodes about said events; RevBots proactively send notifications to other network nodes when events occurs while Umbreit does not show any method for handling any such events, see Paragraphs [59, 127-128, 151-152 and 164-168], and
- (e) fourth means for said network nodes receiving and processing the notification of said events whereby said network nodes obtain notification of said events associated with said website in a timely and organized manner; a website's RevBots advantageously enable other network nodes such as search engines to be notified about events, for example content changes, without having to make requests so that they can be kept up-to-date while Umbreit does not teach any such means, see Paragraphs [21-22, 28-29, 127, 133, 164-172, 212-217 and 224].

Further support that the claims are not met by Umbreit is put forth in Paragraph [22] that explains how the embodiments of the present invention, through its intelligent agent RevBots, provides new abilities that include how website and network node administrators are able to define, label, and organize their content and information for inclusion (or exclusion as the case might be) in other network nodes' databases. [24-27] provides this characteristic of a RevBot: "allows a website to efficiently update the information and content at other network nodes..." Further discussion of how RevBots are associated with sourcing network nodes is provided by [30] which explains how, for example, a website's RevBot notifies other network nodes about small incremental changes that occur on the website with which they are associated. Furthermore, [40] describes "logic at each participating website," referring to a collection of websites whose content or information is the source for a later requested search by a requestor client. The fundamental aspect of this logic is taught in [106-134] and by Figures 2-4. [110-111] teaches how RevBots are used to enhance and make timelier the communications between multiple network nodes, for example, between multiple websites and a search engine database computing platform, and [188] teaches how RevBots enhance content categorization.

Also in contrast to the embodiments of the present invention, Umbreit does not concern itself with how new or changed content or information becomes available to the client nor its accuracy or quality, requires subscriber access codes, is specifically oriented towards demographics, e.g. date of birth, and geography, and involves itself actively and directly with the requestor client requests. In striking difference, embodiments of the present invention (a) do not require access

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codes, (b) are not limited to demographics or geography, (c) operate in advance of the request for content by the requestor client to the network node by ensuring that the information on the network node, sourced from other network locations, is up to date, and (d) are passive to and do not involve themselves with the later occurring requestor client requests.

As this approach to communicating information is different from the methods taught by Umbreit, Claim 1's difference improvements are clearly not met by Umbreit. In the same manner as described herein, the other prior art references provided by the examiner do not anticipate the embodiments of the present invention nor meet its claims.

Claim 13 is similar to Claim 1 by relating events to databases. Support for databases can be found in Paragraphs [30-32], and the arguments provided above also apply to this claim.

Claim 15 is similar to Claim 1 by relating events to network presence. Websites are clearly presences on a network, and other types of network presences are covered by [32-33, 110 and 238]. The arguments provided above also apply to this claim.

Claims 2-12, 14 and 16-19 are dependent claims and are allowable along with their respective independent claims.

Support for Claim 2 where one or more network nodes respond to the notifications by said intelligent agent is found in [127].

Support for Claim 3 where said intelligent agent informs network nodes of events associates with a subset of said website is found in [133 and 152].

Support for Claim 4 where said intelligent agent informs network nodes of events relating to the content of said website is found in [21, 28, 127 and 154-155].

Support for Claims 5 and 16 where the network communication is performed in a secured manner is found in [45, 168, 186, 199-201, and 226-228].

Support for Claim 6 where said intelligent agent operates on a portable device is found in [3 and 227].

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Support for Claim 7 where a plurality of said intelligent agents is associated with said website is found in [110].

Support for Claim 8 where said intelligent agent is associated with a plurality of said websites is found in [110].

Support for Claims 9, 14 and 19 for filtering, blocking, enhancement, reformatting and modifying of information is found in [33-35, 37-39 and 135-142].

Support for Claims 10-11 and 17-18 for digital rights management and e-commerce transactions is found in [42-46, 173-182, 195-198 and 223-236].

Support for Claim 12 where said intelligent agent also comprises a means for activating said intelligent agent to operate on behalf of a website is found in [218-222].

Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

Applicant has amended the title and claims of this application so that they are distinguished above the prior art. If, for any reason, this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2173.02 and § 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,



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